

# Healthy Ecosystems

**KEY QUESTION:** What are the essential elements of a healthy ecosystem?

## Looking Ahead

- Ecosystems are made up of living and non-living elements.
- The living things in an ecosystem depend on each other and on non-living elements for survival.
- Living and non-living elements interact with each other in many different ways.
- The skills of scientific inquiry can be used to investigate the living and non-living elements in a model ecosystem.
- Humans are part of ecosystems and affect ecosystems.

## VOCABULARY

biotic element	ecology
organism	habitat
micro-organism	nutrient
species	competition
population	predator
community	prey
abiotic element	mutualism
ecosystem	